Removal of silt from canals

1383. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for removal of silt from canals network and its repair/renovation across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to formulate a National Project for time-bound repair/renovation/desilting of existing canal network across the country in order to avoid large scale seepage/ overflow/wastage of precious water meant for irrigation purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. Hence, the Central Government has not formulated any project for removal of silt from canals network and its repair/renovation across the country.

Techno-economic feasibility of inter-linking of rivers

1384. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar was recently held at Anand with experts from Columbia-based International Water Management Institute deliberating on the techno-economic feasibility of the proposed mega project on inter-linking of national rivers;